

NEWQUAY ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944.

HEALTH
21 SEP 45
O.R.

The Chairman, and Members of the NEWQUAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to present my 19th. Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of Newquay during the year 1944. It is an 'Interim' Report, and is drawn up on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circulars 10/44.

Section A. Statistic and Social conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres).

5,000 acres.

Population.

The figure given by the Registrar General as his mid-1944 estimate of the population is 10,570. Owing to the influx of evacuees, troops and persons self evacuated from other areas, this population is more in the region of 15,000.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to)
Rate Book:)

2,603.

Rateable Value :

£114,782.

Sum represented by the Penny Rate :

£440.

Social Conditions.

Social conditions have remained substantially the same as in the previous War Years.

During the early months of the year, the town was filled probably to its Peak Capacity. This was due to use of the town in part as an area for the billeting of Invasion Troops, chiefly soldiers of the American Expeditionary Forces.

The renewal of the bombing of London with Rocket Bombs resulted in large parties of women and children being sent to Newquay again. The majority of the families were billeted in requisitioned Hotels.

In addition, several thousands of visitors - the majority being war workers - came to Newquay on holiday during the summer months.

A number of Hotels have been used throughout the war by certain big Schools, notably Gresham's from Holt, Norfolk; Benenden School from Kent; the Bergman-Osterberg College from Dartford; Micklefield School from Sussex, and a large Girls' School from Plymouth.

Three big Hotels have been used throughout the War as Ministry of Pensions Hospitals, and are still in use as such.

Five Hostels (and Sick Bays) have been maintained throughout the War Years for the care of sick evacuee children. These Hostels are a direct concern of the Evacuation Committee, which in turn is responsible to the Ministry of Health. They have been efficiently run, and credit is due to the Matrons and Staffs for the very good service which has been rendered by them. During the last two years, these Hostels have accepted and cared for evacuee children from all parts of the County.

The County Council has maintained an auxiliary Emergency Hospital at Westward Ho, for the treatment of infectious diseases.

In spite of the population of the town being at its peak, with its consequent evils of overcrowding and a certain degree of limitation of food and fuel, the Health of the district has been very satisfactory.

With the Wars now drawing to their inevitable conclusion, one tends to look to the future prosperity of Newquay, and the part Social Conditions must play if Newquay is to keep at the head of Seaside Resorts in Cornwall.

The chief necessity in any Health Resort is a clean bill of health, and if this town is to be free of worry in this respect I put as the most imperative work in the near future, the provision of Main Water Supply and Main Drainage to Crantock, Tregurrian and all those

outlying parts of Newquay that have not yet got what, after all, are the ordinary decencies of life. For over 10 years now, I have reported on the adverse Sanitary conditions of Outer Newquay, in the villages of Crantock and Tregurrian and I very deeply regret the action of the Ministry of Health in their recent refusal to authorise the execution of Works in connection with the extension of the Company's Water Mains to West Pentire and Tregurrian "as it did not appear to be of immediate urgency on the grounds of Public Health."

The population of Newquay is now estimated to be over 10,000. This is an increase of 2000 to 3000 over the pre-war population and does not take into consideration the "peak figures" when the summer season is at its height.

Immediate housing schemes will be considered, and will be put through on urgent post-war priority grounds. In addition, private enterprise will, when allowed, undertake further building developments. This will mean an additional strain on the existing Main Drainage of the Town and I hope that at the first opportunity, the scheme for an improved Main Drainage, postponed in 1939 on the Declaration of War, will have priority amongst the works so necessary for the future health and prosperity of Newquay.

Any such undertaking will, of course, bring into consideration that large area on the East side of the Town which now depends on Cess Pit Drainage.

Extract from vital statistics of the Year.

<u>Live Births:</u>		M.	F.
Legitimate.....		68.	71.
Illegitimate.....		12.	10.
Total.....		80.	81. 161

Birth Rate. 15.04 living, as compared with that for England and Wales which is 17.6.

<u>Still Births.</u>		M.	F.
Legitimate.....		3.	-
Illegitimate.....		-	- Total.3.

<u>Deaths.</u> (Corrected for inward and outward transfer)		M.	F.
		58.	84. 142.

Death Rate. per 1000 - 13.43 as compared with 11.6 for England and Wales. This is a 'crude' rate; i.e., it makes no allowance for the age composition of the Newquay population, which works unfavourably in comparison with the standard rate, because of the greater number of elderly people the Town contains. A 'comparability factor' for Newquay has been suspended for the duration of the War, and therefore it is not possible to give a 'corrected figure' for the Death Rate.

Death from Puerperal Causes.

No. 29.	Puerperal sepsis.....	1.
No. 30.	Other puerperal causes.....	0.

Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births		M.	F.
Legitimate.....		2	3.
Illegitimate.....		0	0
Total.....		5.	

Deaths from Cancer	(all ages)	15.
Deaths from Measles	(all ages)	0.

Death from whooping cough (all ages)..... 0.
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years) 1.

Causes of Death.

The chief causes of death were as follows :-

1. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels.....	53.
2. Cancer, malignant disease	15.
3. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3.
4. Cerebral haemorrhage, disease of brain	15.
5. Diseases of digestive organs	2.
6. Respiratory diseases	11.
7. Violence, Accidents etc.....	11.
8. Nephritis.....	3.
9. Diabetes.....	3.
10. Other causes.....	26.

Total..... 142.

Ages at death.

Under one year.....	9.
5, and under 15 years.....	0.
15, and under 25 years.....	3.
25, and under 50 years.....	10.
50, and under 65 years.....	18.
65, and under 80 years.....	62.
80 years and over.....	40.
and of these, 2 were over 90 years.	

Section B. General provision of Health Services for the Area.

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|-----|---|--|
| (1) | <u>Medical Officer of Health</u>
(part time) | G.P. Hardwick MRCS. LRCP.
(appointed 1926). |
| (2) | Sanitary Inspector.
(whole time) | J.H. Chapple MSIA. Assoc. RSI.
(appointed 1919) |
| (2) | (a) Laboratory Facilities
Ambulance Facilities.
Nursing in the Home
Treatment Control Centres
Hospitals
Maternity and Child Welfare. | |

Under the above headings; there have been no changes from the arrangements made in former years.

Section C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

- (1) Water.

The greater portion of the Urban District is supplied by the Newquay & District Water Company - a statutory company; but the areas which were admitted into the Urban District in 1934 and which are outside Newquay Proper, still rely on wells - many of which are definitely bad.

The areas which are not supplied with the main water supply are Crantock, Watergate, and Tregurrian. The main water supply is derived from the following sources :-

- (a) A main supply is obtained from deep adits at Indian Queens and Ruthers by gravitation, and the water is

- conveyed by iron pipes to reservoirs at Quintrell Downs, and then by pipe line to Newquay.
- (b) A main supply from Trewollack obtained by pumping from old mine shafts and adits, the water afterwards being conveyed to aeration and filtration plant at Fairpark.
 - (c) A supplementary supply at Mount Wise, Newquay, obtained from a shaft by pumping.
 - (d) An additional supply was opened in 1943 which is derived from the Porth Stream. Legislation, following a Ministry of Health inquiry in January, 1942, sanctioned this supply, which is a chlorinated water, and the supply is now in full use and satisfactory.

This water is derived from the Porth Stream which runs through agricultural country and is known polluted water. Filtration and pumping plant together with chlorination has been erected at Rialton Mill.

This station is then connected to the existing pumping main from Trewollack and thence to Fairpark Service Reservoir. This supply came into operation in August, 1943, and monthly reports submitted by the Water Company to me, confirmed that the supply was a wholesome water suitable for Public Supply Service. For the purposes of economy and space, the reports are again omitted from this report.

With the exception of the occasional supply at Mount Wise, all the main water to Newquay is now mixed at Fairpark Tank Reservoir, and this whole supply is now chlorinated water. Monthly Analyses are made by the Local Authority, in addition to those made by the Company. The Water Company supplies your Medical Officer with a monthly report. During the year, these tests have been satisfactory except for one period - June - when a serious complaint was made by a Householder. This complaint was also rendered to the Ministry of Health and to the County Medical Officer. This complaint was thoroughly investigated by the Public Health Committee and by the Water Company. No serious grounds for the complaint were found. Apart from this complaint, the Main Water supply of the area has been found satisfactory (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.

Bacteriological examinations are made at monthly intervals and/or when any special occasion arises. The samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and sent at once to the Pathological Department at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro. The time ensuing between the taking of samples and their receipt at the Laboratory being two hours.

The Company's samples are taken, of course, under the Company's own arrangements, the samples being sent to Laboratories in London.

Fourteen examinations were made by this Local Authority during the year and except for a short period in June, the results were consistent with an 'efficiently treated water, pure and wholesome in character, and suitable for the purpose of a Public Supply'.

For economy of space and paper, I have again omitted the results of these tests.

Crantock, West Pentire, and Tregurrian.

I have to report no change for the better in these villages. As stated in my Annual Report for 1943, Crantock has no Main Water Supply, and the conditions have been a source of anxiety for many years. Statements to this effect have been regularly recorded on my Annual Reports and at the Public Health Committees.

Crantock and its District and Tregurrian rely entirely on Wells. In 1943, reports were made on 36 Wells in Crantock, including the main village Well. The majority of these Wells were badly contaminated.

To ensure safety, it is advisable that all water should be boiled before drinking, and instructions to that effect have been issued.

An attack of water borne illness, apart from the disaster it

would bring on the village, would jeopardize Newquay's prospect as a Health Resort for many a year.

It is of interest that during the summer, the Evacuation Committee of this Authority deemed it wise to remove a large number of newly arrived evacuee mothers and children, who were billeted in the villages of Crantock and West Pentire, rather than incur the risk of a water borne epidemic. Also it was noticeable that the Services did not avail themselves of this area for billeting purposes, except for a very short period during which they probably found out what the conditions really were.

Before the outbreak of War, a Scheme was about to be carried out to bring a Main Water Supply and a Sewerage System to Crantock. This was unavoidably deferred. During this year a Conference was held between the Water Company and this Council, and agreement was reached on a proposed extension of the Company's Water to the Crantock and Tregurrian Districts. The Company was asked to take all steps to put the Scheme in operation.

A Main Drainage Scheme for Crantock would have automatically followed such construction.

It is therefore with the greatest regret that I have to report that the Ministry of Health has refused to authorise the execution of the works in connection with the extension of the Company's Water Mains to West Pentire, Crantock and Tregurrian Districts, 'as the works did not appear to be of immediate urgency either because of requirements or on the grounds of Public Health.'

It seems futile to make any further comments, but it should be made clear that having received the immediate co-operation of the Water Company, every effort had been made to remove the dangers of this ever present polluted water supply, and that the responsibility for its continued presence, does not rest with the Local Authority.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The routine testing and inspections of drains and sewers have been carried out, and the results are to be found in the Annual Health Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is attached.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken or required during the year.

(4) Closet Accommodation.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading. The conditions are the same in the outlying districts as in former years, and until a Water and Sewerage Scheme is provided for Crantock and Tregurrian, these localities must continue with their earth and sand privies.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposing of refuse is undertaken by the Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, details of which are given in his Annual Report attached.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The usual summary of the Sanitary Inspector's report is omitted, and instead the entire report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1944, is attached.

Section 'D'.

Housing.

There has been no work under this heading during the year. No new buildings have been erected either by public enterprise or privately. Defects have been remedied where necessary, but no actions have been necessary under the Housing Acts or under the Public Health Acts.



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Section 'E'.

Inspection and supervision of food.

(a) Milk.

The number of producers and/or retailers on the register is 41. The quality and condition of the milk supply has improved on the previous two years, and very few complaints were received during the year. The supervision of the milk supply by the Authority is always difficult, as practically all the purveyors obtain their supply from outside the Urban area. However, there appears to be a better supervision now of these outside farms, and probably the active work carried on by the County Council in its work to ensure a better milk, is at last having a modicum of success.

I am still of the opinion that, until much more drastic legislation is put into practice as regards the collection, cooling and transportation of milk, especially Milk Marketing Boards, Local Authorities are powerless to effect much improvement in the Supply.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

The statistics under this heading will be found in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector; owing to Government control, all meat is now slaughtered at the central slaughterhouse at Lane. This is not in the Newquay Urban District.

(c) Adulteration etc.

No action has been taken during the year under the various Acts controlling this offence.

Section F.

Prevalence of, and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The Table shows the Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year 1944.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Truro.	<u>Admitted Hospital.</u>		Deaths.
			M.O.P.	Westward Ho.	
Chicken Pox.	43			1	0.
Whooping Cough.	52			3	0.
Measles.	104			21	0.
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	3 (plus 1 to Newquay)			1.
Cer.S.Fever.	1	1			0.
Typhoid.	2	2			0.
Erysipelas	4		2		0.
Pneumonia	1		1		0.
Paratyphoid	2	1	1		0.
Malaria	20		20		0.
Jaundice.	1				0.
Scarlet Fever.	5	1			0.
Ac.Poliomyelitis	1	1			0.
	240	10	24	30	1.

These figures include 30 cases from the Services.

Measles in epidemic form prevailed during the year at times severe, and chiefly among children up to the age of six years.

Typhoid Fever. Two cases occurred during the year making 4 in all during the War years.

In, no case could the origin be traced, although the milk supplies, water and all contacts were examined.

Diphtheria. No cases occurred in the District.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. This work commenced in 1940, and continued throughout the year.

Number of children completing course. January 1944 to December 1944.

Under 5
98.

5 and under 15 years.
20.

The total number immunised from September 1940 to December 31st.1944 and who completed the course of Two Injections - 2011.
A very approximate percentage of the child population immunised on 31/12/44 may be given as : under 5 years of age - 65.9 %
5 and under 15 years - 88.6 %

The prophylactic in all cases was issued to the Medical Practitioners of the Town and in every case A.P.T. Toxioid was made available from the Devon County Laboratory.

Inneculation against the Typhoid Group of Fevers.

Owing to the great increase in the population of the Town, the possible shortage of water, and the overstrained drainage system, I have held a stock of vaccine for anti-typhoid inneculation.

Typing of Pneumococci.

This diagnostic test is available at the Laboratory of the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, and has been made use of.

Scabies and Verminous Conditions.

These conditions have much improved. The Hostels for these cases at Judges, East Street, has continued to do excellent work and in fact, cases from other areas of the County are regularly being admitted for treatment.
Benzyl Benzoathtreatment is the method of choice, three baths being given before discharge of the patients and in spite of recent medical opinion, we have continued to fumigate all clothing and bedding.
Infestation by head lice is also treated at this Hostel, and a Department is open daily for such treatment.

Venereal Disease.

Facilities are available under the arrangements of the Ministry of Health Circular 2226.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken or required under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regs. 1925, or under Section 177 of the Public Health Act 1936.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944 : CIVILLIANS ONLY.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5-15	1		1					
15-25	1	2	1	1				1
25-35		2						
35-45	1	1				1		
45 upwards	1	1			1	1		
	4	6	2	1	1	2		1.

Port Sanitary Regulations.

No action has been taken or necessary during the year.
No vessels or passengers entering the Harbour other than
Fishing Boats.

A.G.P. HARDWICK.

Medical Officer of Health
for
NEWQUAY.

AUGUST 1945.

